

## **FROM THE PROVOST: July 18, 2014**

- **UAS SITKA CAMPUS DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT UNDERWAY**

I visited the Sitka Campus earlier this week to meet with faculty, staff, and the campus council about next steps in recruiting a new campus director. Dr. Jeff Johnston plans to retire in January 2015 after nearly 9 years of service. We'll begin the public recruitment process very soon, with a goal of screening applicants in the September-October timeframe. Thanks to all at the Sitka Campus for your constructive input about the qualities we'll recruit for in a new director.

- **UAS FALL CONVOCATION PLANNED FOR AUGUST 19-20**

The UAS Fall Convocation, a shared governance activity involving both faculty and administrative leadership, is planned for Juneau on August 19-20. I've worked with Faculty Senate leadership to develop a preliminary schedule, which maximizes time for faculty from our three campuses to meet. A major focus of this year's Convocation will be on student learning outcomes for all courses, degrees, and programs—a specific requirement for UAS accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

- **STATEWIDE ACADEMIC COUNCIL ADVANCES UAS MEDICAL ASSISTING PROPOSAL**

The UA Statewide Academic Council (SAC) expressed support for the UAS proposal for a Certificate in Medical Assisting, approved by Faculty Senate in May 2014. The proposal now goes to President Gamble and then to the Board of Regents for final review and approval. We expect that review by Regents at their September meeting in Juneau—September 18-19.

- **UAS FALL ENROLLMENTS TO DATE: DOWN OVERALL FOR FALL 2014**

Current fall 2014 enrollment data show that UAS overall is down 4.5% in student credit hours and 6.7% in headcount. Headcount and student credit hours are up modestly at Ketchikan and Sitka campuses. A positive note is that program applications are up 4.4% over 2013. UAA and UAF also show downturns. One UAS response is to institute a "Come Home Alaska" initiative—offering instate tuition to those Outside who have parents or grandparents in the state.

- **PROGRAM REVIEWS LEAD TO ACADEMIC CHANGES**

I've met recently with both Biology/Marine Biology and with Environmental Science faculty to bring closure to AY14-15 academic program reviews. Both reviews and subsequent discussions with faculty have identified some constructive ideas to strengthen and broaden these important degree offerings. The program review for our Certificate in Pre-Engineering is also now complete, leading to a decision to suspend admissions and to eliminate the program following a teach-out for existing students. This difficult decision required careful review of program productivity and centrality to UAS mission. We expect the required teach-out to take about one year.

- **SHAPING ALASKA'S FUTURE: UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS**

The UA Summit Team and Faculty Alliance representatives will meet in August to discuss implementation of the five themes of Shaping Alaska's Future (<http://www.alaska.edu/shapingalaskasfuture/>). Moreover, UAS academic deans and directors will join their counterparts at UAA and UAF for a meeting on August 26 that will focus on improving academic quality and student success, aligning university calendars, expanding cross-university program collaboration, and aligning learning outcomes for GERs.

- **UAS PARTNERSHIP WITH TOURISM INDUSTRY TAKING SHAPE**

I joined School of Management faculty member John Blanchard and 80 young employees in Juneau's tourism industry to encourage enrollments in special 'late-start' business classes that fit the tourism industry's employment schedule. Over a dozen employers participated in the event, spearheaded by Kirby Day with Holland-America. The pilot offerings are SOM courses that will start in early October—allowing employees to finish out the busy summer season and then begin classes. John also visit Hoonah's Icy Strait Point destination where employees also expressed interest in this innovative opportunity.

- **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES PLANNED FOR AY14-15**

UAS offers a variety of Faculty Development opportunities, including: August 22 cross-cultural orientation (sponsored by School of Education and the PITAAS program), Wilson Fund travel grants for conferences where faculty are presenting papers or serving on panels, a faculty development seminar for new faculty to be offered by Associate Dean Jill Dumesnil, and the UAS Academic Leadership Seminar. UAS also has an informal mentor program in place for new faculty. Stay tuned for more details about these opportunities or go to the Provost Office website at [http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/faculty\\_resources.html](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/faculty_resources.html)

- **AASCU EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY—WASHINGTON DC**

As I write this I'm on my way to DC where I'll attend the first session of a year-long executive leadership academy for higher education sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. I'm back in Juneau on July 27. Lifelong learning never ends!

**PROVOST READS: \*\***

***Student Learning Outcomes: Making Them Useful and Transparent***

<http://www.learningoutcomeassessment.org/TFComponentSLOS.htm>